

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 RSR-01 /089 W

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P R 100930Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7869

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8064

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. LIAONING'S ATTACK ON THE UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT EXAMINATION HAS BEEN CONVEYED NATIONWIDE BY PEOPLE'S DAILY. THIS, ALONG WITH OTHER RECENTLY STIRRED UP CONTROVERSIES, GIVES CHOU UNWELCOME ISSUES WHEN HE IS PREPARING FOR A PARTY CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IF A PARTY CONGRESS COMES NOW, PREMIER CHOU MAY HAVE TO ENTER IT BACKPEDALLING ON SOME ISSUES. IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT, LIAONING'S ATTACK ON THE UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT EXAMINATION HAS CARRIED TO THE TOP AND BEEN BROUGHT TO NATIONAL ATTENTION (WR 30). ACCORDING TO A HAINAN RADIO BROADCAST MONITORED HERE, THE REGIME'S MOUTHPIECE PEOPLE'S DAILY AUGUST 10 REPRINTED THE LIAONING BLAST-- A CRITICAL LETTER FROM A DOWN-TO-THE-COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH, AND THE THE EDITOR'S NOTE WHICH ACCOMPANIED IT IN THE LIAONING DAILY JULY 19--AND ADDED ITS OWN EDITOR'S NOTE. ITS NOTE, PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORTEDLY RESTRICTED ITSELF TO SAYING THAT THE MATTER "RAISES AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO LINES AND TWO IDEOLOGIES," AND OFFERED ONLY THE USUAL PRESCRIPTION FOR MORE STUDY OF MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS.

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2. THIS ACTION BY PEOPLE'S DAILY COMES THE DAY AFTER HEILUNG-KIANG'S PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER ENDORSED LIAONING'S ATTACK IN THE SAME FASHION (HARBIN RADIO AUGUST 9). HEILUNKGIANG IS IN THE SHENYANG MILITARY REGION WHERE IT IS FAMILIAR PRACTICE TO APE THE LINE COMING OUT OF LIAONING, THE BASE OF THE REGION'S CHIEF, POLITBURO MEMBER CHEN HSI-LIEN. FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME, PROVINCES ELSEWHERE HAVE YET TO JOIN IN. HOWEVER, RECENT PROVINCIAL BROADCASTS ABOUT UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT HAVE AVOIDED MENTION OF THE EXAMINATION (CANTON RADIO AUGUST 7 COMSPICUOUSLY OMITTED IT) AND THEY MAY BE SKIRTING THE CONTROVERSY.

3. PREMIER CHOU'S VISIT TO LIAONING JULY 31-AUGUST 1, WHEN HE SKIPPED PEKING'S ARMY DAY RECEPTION TO JOIN CHEN HSI-LIEN IN HONORING AN AFRICAN VISITOR, TAKES ON ADDED INTEREST IN LIGHT OF THIS SUBSEQUENT DECISION TO PUBLISH THE LIAONING ATTACK. AT THE MOMENT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH CHEN HAS SCORED POINTS OVER THE EXAMINATION ISSUE AND THAT CHOU, IF HE HOLDS THE BAG FOR THAT POLICY, HAS HAD TO GIVE GROUND. MOREOVER, THE EXAMINATION AFFAIR LOOKS CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE CURRENT HEATED CONTROVERSY OVER THE YOUTH TO THE COUNTRYSIDE PROGRAM (HONG KONG 7924). THERE, TOO, IT APPEARS THAT CHOU HAS HAD TO CALL FOR ADJUSTMENTS. WE EARLIER SPECULATED THAT CHOU WAS CAUGHT UP IN CRITICISM OVER THE LIBERALIZING TREND IN SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (HONG KONG 7602). WHILE CHOU REMAINS IN CONTROL OVER THESE ISSUES, AND IS FACING THEM AND MAKING ADJUSTMENTS, HE CANNOT WELCOME THEIR PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON THE EVE OF A NATIONAL CONGRESS WHERE THEY COULD DISRUPT THE AGENDA HE HAS IN MIND.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK08064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DEAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730846/aaaabhmh.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY INSTRUCTIONS
TAGS: PINS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005